



## USICH Updates

April 6-7, 2021

### Public Virtual Advisory Council on Homeless Veterans (ACHV) Meeting

#### Leadership Announcement

- Anthony Love was appointed Interim Executive Director
- [USICH Leadership Update 3-5-2021](#)

#### Comprehensive National Approach Toward Ending Homelessness

- **Housing is a Right for All.** Under the Biden-Harris Administration, USICH will prioritize housing as a right for all. Our staff, working both at the federal level as well as working across the nation with state and local officials, will help to identify and implement best practices that can be replicated across the United States.
- **Racial Equity.** Data indicates that homelessness is disproportionately high among people of color. Disparities look different across communities such as African Americans, Native Americans, Alaska Natives, and Latinx populations, among other populations. Homelessness services systems must examine all policies, priorities, and strategies to ensure racial inequities do not continue. Key to addressing disparities is a focus on policy solutions at the federal, state, and local levels, as well as within homelessness services systems in ways that address structural racism and actively dismantle disparities.
- **Economic Mobility.** Improving economic mobility and economic security is a key component of the Biden-Harris administration. This includes rental assistance, supports, and services.
- **Climate Change.** Environmental justice is an administration priority and intersects with the urgency of ending homelessness across the country.
- **Housing First.** A priority of the administration is to ensure the basic necessities of life, such as having a place to live, are adequately met. Housing First is part of a comprehensive strategy in addressing homelessness that also recognizes the importance of further supporting rapid-rehousing, and long-term supportive housing.

#### COVID-19 Updates

- USICH staff continue to work with states and communities on addressing the impact of the pandemic on people experiencing homelessness, including homelessness prevention, unsheltered homelessness, implementing CDC protocols, supporting equitable vaccine distribution, and maximizing federal COVID relief funding. Throughout the pandemic we have continued to disseminate resources from our federal partners, elevate issues from the field, and peer to peer connections throughout the country.

## Racial Equity

- USICH and our federal and national partners recognize the need for communities to address the racial inequities that exist across experiences of homelessness. In order to understand the dynamics underpinning these inequities and develop local solutions, communities must collect and examine both quantitative and qualitative data. The purpose of this guidance is to provide communities with a framework for gathering and assessing that data.  
[https://www.usich.gov/resources/uploads/asset\\_library/Racial\\_Equity\\_Data\\_Guidebook.pdf](https://www.usich.gov/resources/uploads/asset_library/Racial_Equity_Data_Guidebook.pdf)
- <https://www.usich.gov/news/these-leaders-are-working-to-achieve-racial-equity-and-end-homelessness>

## Program Related Updates

- SDCT: Through the Interagency Working Group on Ending Veteran Homelessness (SVHO/SDCT), we are particularly focused on supporting communities to increase HUD-VASH utilization through joint guidance, technical assistance, messaging, and other federal levers. We will also be focused on identifying and implementing strategies to drive increased progress on Veteran homelessness, particularly in light of the 2020 PIT Count findings.
- Veteran Criteria and Benchmarks: Community Confirmation:  
<https://www.usich.gov/communities-that-have-ended-homelessness>
- USICH convened Quarterly Call with National Partners and Technical Assistance leads to support communities.
- Transitioning Service Members: In 2020 through a collaborative partnership between the Veterans Administration (VA), Department of Defense (DoD), and USICH, a process was developed to reduce the risk of becoming homeless for transitioning service members who lack a stable housing plan. This process works to ensure a “warm handover” to the Veterans Homeless Administration (VHA) through direct referrals to the National Call Center for Homeless Veterans (NCHV). DoD Transition Managers will make direct referrals to the NCHV which operates 24/7. Data reporting and monitoring will be overseen by VHA to monitor progress and make adjustments as needed.